

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A staple fiber for an electret non-woven fabric, which is a polyolefin heat-bonding fiber having 0.05 to 1.0 % by weight of an oil adhering thereto, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oil contains, as a main component, an ester obtained from polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 400 to 800 and a fatty acid having 10 to 20 carbon atoms, and wherein the amount of the adhering oil decreases to 0.001 to 0.2 % by weight after heat treatment, and that the decrease ratio of the amount of the adhering oil, represented by the equation (I), can be at least 60 %,

Decrease ratio (%) of the amount of the

adhering oil =  $[(A-B)/A] \times 100 \dots (I)$

wherein A is an amount (% by weight) of

the oil adhering to the heat-bonding

fiber and B is an amount of the oil

adhering to the non-woven fabric

after the heat treatment,

under heat treatment for forming the polyolefin heat-bonding fiber into a non-woven fabric and/or under heat treatment of a non-woven fabric formed of the polyolefin heat-bonding fiber.

2. Canceled.

3. (Original) The staple fiber of claim 1, wherein the polyolefin heat-bonding fiber has 0.2 to 0.6 % by weight of an oil adhering thereto.

4. (Original) The staple fiber of claim 1, which is a polyolefin composite fiber.

5. (Original) The staple fiber of claim 4, wherein the polyolefin composite fiber is a sheath-core composite fiber containing polyethylene as a sheath portion.

6.-12. Canceled.

13. (Currently Amended) An article obtained from an electret non-woven fabric produced using a staple fiber according to ~~obtained by the process recited in claim 6~~ any one of claims 1 to 5.

14. (Original) The article of claim 13, which is a filter material, a filter device or a wiper.